

May 31, 2005

Mr. Stan Olsen
Kitsap County Public Works
Surface and Stormwater Management
614 Division Street. MS-26A
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Dear Mr. Olsen:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

You commented that Union River is listed as a 4A for fecal coliform with the exception of one segment (42675), and questioned whether this segment should also be placed in Category 4A. We reviewed this listing and found that #42675 has been inactivated because the data was rolled into listing 16729. Upon review of 16729, it has been placed in Category 4A with a remark that it is part of the Union River TMDL that was approved August 2, 2002. We appreciate you bringing it to our attention.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Braley".

Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section